



THE LATE QUEEN DOWAGER ADELAIDE; FROM A PORTRAIT BY SIR W. C. ROSS, R.A.

THE LATE QUEEN DOWAGER.

RARELY have we been called upon to announce an event appealing more forcibly to the sympathies of all classes of the community than that which it is our painful duty to record—the death of Adelaide, late Queen Consort of William IV., and Queen Dowager of England.

Let us now review the circumstances which more than her high lineage have given to the truly feminine character of this illustrious lady, not only a record in history, but a home in the hearts of her own generation.

It may be truly said of her Majesty, that we owe to her the revival and perpetuation of that beautiful system of domesticity in regal life which had already given such infinite credit and charm to the court of George III., and which was happily to pass with increased splendour to our present gracious Sovereign and her family. In the loss of the admirable lady whose death we here mourn, the rich and the noble have parted with a pattern whom it was a pride and a pleasure to imitate; the poor, have been deprived of a

friend who never forsook them. As is usual with the virtuous, the biography of this Queen presents little or nothing of a stirring or eventful character: her path of life lay through one unvarying course of domestic piety and private charity; princely birth, alliance, and fortune were, with her, only additional aids and incentives in doing good.

Amelia Adelaide Louisa Theresa Carolina, Queen Dowager, was the elder daughter of George Frederic Charles, Duke of Saxe-Coburg Meiningen, by Louisa Eleonora, daughter of Christian Albert Lewis, Prince of Hohenloë-Langenburg. The issue of this marriage were—first, her lamented Majesty, who was born on the 13th day of August, 1792; secondly, Ida, born in 1794, and married, in 1816, to Bernard, son of the Archduke Charles of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, by whom she has had issue; and, thirdly, Bernard Henry, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, born in 1800, and married, in 1828, to Mary, daughter of Prince William of Hesse-Cassel.

Her Majesty's father died on the 24th of December, 1813, at the early age of forty-two, and by



KING WILLIAM IV. NAVAL ASYLUM, AT FENGE, BUILT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LATE QUEEN DOWAGER.



hood, the Princess Adelaide, in particular, was remarkable for her seat disposition and retired habits. The greatest portion of her time, it is said, was devoted to her studies; and though perfectly cheerful with her intimate companions, she took little pleasure in the gaieties of courtly life. When arrived at more mature years, she manifested a strong repugnance to that laxity of morals and contempt for religious feeling which had sprung up in the French Revolution, and infected almost all the Courts in Germany. That of Meiningen, fortunately, by its seclusion and apparent insignificance, but, above all, by the prudent vigilance of the Dowager Regent, escaped the moral contagion; thus the Regent Duchess was left in undisturbed possession of her authority, and the tranquil enjoyment of domestic order. So favoured by Providence, the little Court of Meiningen was distinguished by its purity of principles, and its two Princesses were objects of admiration from their exemplary conduct. Their chief delight was in establishing and superintending schools for the education of the humbler classes of the community, and in providing food and clothing for the aged, helpless, and destitute. The Princess Adelaide, above all, was the main support of every institution which had for its object the amelioration of the condition of her fellow-creatures; and in this devout exercise it was that her Majesty first imbibed those exalted qualities of mind and heart which, in a more extended sphere, have since been so extensively displayed for the advantage and happiness of the British people.

After the death of the lamented Princess Charlotte, in 1817, it became indispensably necessary that the Princess of the blood Royal should enter into the married state. His late Majesty King William IV., then Duke of Clarence, selected for his future partner the Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. On the 11th July, 1818, the Duchess Dowager of Saxe-Meiningen and her daughter, the Princess Adelaide, having previously arrived in England, the marriage took place in the Palace at Kew. The Duke and Duchess of Kent were at the same time re-married according to the rites of the Established Church. Both the brides were given away by the Prince Regent, the Archbishop of Canterbury performing the ceremony. The Duke and Duchess of Clarence took leave of the Royal Family in a few days after their marriage, and proceeded to Hanover, in the capital of which kingdom they passed the winter of 1818, and the spring of 1819. While on the Continent, her Royal Highness prematurely gave birth to a princess, who was christened on the day of her birth, but died very soon afterwards, and was interred in the royal vault at Hanover. The Duchess's recovery was gradual, and for change of air, she proceeded to Meiningen, visiting Göttingen and Hesse Philadelphic *en route*.

The joy of the people of Saxony on again beholding their beloved Princess knew no bounds; and she was received with the most affectionate demonstrations of the Duke and Duchess. After a residence of six weeks in the capital, where holiday was kept for a month. The Royal Duke, too, by his kind and condescending manner, and devoted attention to his amiable consort, soon won the hearts of the people of Meiningen, and became as popular as one of their own Prince. After a residence of several weeks in the castle, the Court removed to Liebenstein, where, by aid of its mineral springs, in the course of the summer, the Duchess recovered her health.

In October, 1819, the Royal pair left Meiningen, on their return to England. They landed at Dover, and a residence on the sea-coast being recommended, the Earl of Liverpool, then Warden of the Cinque Ports, kindly offered the Duke the use of Walmer Castle, near Deal, where the Duke and Duchess sojourned for six weeks. The winter of this year was passed in London, where her Royal Highness gave birth to a fine healthy princess, who, by special desire of George IV., was christened Elizabeth; when about three months old, the Princess was carried off by sudden illness. The calm resignation of the bereaved parents in this moment of severe trial, and their humble submission to the Divine will, is described as one of those scenes that give dignity to rank, and impress deeply upon the mind the truth and value of the Christian faith.

In 1826 the Duke and Duchess of Clarence terminated their usual travelling on the Continent, and came to reside permanently at Busby. The domestic life of the Duke and Duchess at this period is thus described by Dr. Beattie, who was for some years her Royal Highness's private physician:—

"To his illustrious partner, whose many and exalted virtues his Royal Highness so duly appreciated, he can possibly evince more delicate and uniform attention. There are not, perhaps, of the present day, two personages of similar station, in whom the virtues of domestic life are more pleasingly exemplified. With those excellent qualities of mind and heart so eminently possessed by her Royal Highness, it is not surprising that her Royal Highness should have won and should retain the esteem and affection of her illustrious consort. His mind is fully alive to their vital importance as regards his present happiness, and to the influence they must exercise over his future prospects.

The death of the Duke of York, in 1827, made the Duke of Clarence heir presumptive to the throne; and, on the death of George IV., he became King, under the title of William IV., and the Duchess a Queen Consort. Their coronation took place on the 8th of September, 1831.

It was during their residence at Busby Park, namely, in June, 1830, that the melancholy tidings of the death of George IV. reached Windsor Castle, were brought to the Royal Duke and Duchess. It is related, that, upon receiving the intelligence, her Royal Highness burst into tears; but that, recovering her presence of mind, she immediately requested that the messenger who had brought the tidings would accept a prayer-book which lay upon the table, with her name written therein, as the first gift of the Queen of England.

We believe the first introduction of Queen Adelaide in public after her husband came to the throne, was on the 17th of July, when the late King received the deputations from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, when, after the rev. and learned members had had the honour of kissing hands, the King, to their agreeable surprise, requested them to remain till they had been introduced to the Queen, who soon after made her appearance, and gave a gracious reception to the academical deputations.

Queen Adelaide accompanied the King to Busby Park on the 22nd of July, on which occasion the recognition of this Royal Consort was bestowed on her Majesty for life by the King. Her Majesty, from her long residence there, had previously expressed a strong attachment to the place. The popularity previously enjoyed by the Duchess was very much increased on her elevation. The sphere of usefulness which she had hitherto so worthily filled was greatly enlarged when she became Queen; and the regard and affection which she had previously enjoyed were correspondingly increased. After sojourning a short period at Windsor Castle, the King and Queen proceeded to Brighton for the benefit of the sea air. While on this coast, their Majesties made excursions to several places in the vicinity, and, among the rest, to Lewes, where her Majesty entered the town, and the name of the Queen was everywhere hailed with many favourable circumstances under which Providence has called me to ascend the throne of this country, there is none for which I feel more grateful, upon which I set a higher value, than that it had previously been my happy fortune to be married to an individual so excellent in every amiable and good feeling. In this country character finds its way forth into the world,

and is always known; I have no doubt, therefore, that you are already well aware of what I would say; but I must take the opportunity of speaking what I am most sincerely convinced of—that her Majesty, who sits before you, possesses every estimable quality calculated to give to the world and history a noble example. She was all that a great share of that good and kind feeling which has been so largely manifested towards me since I have occupied the throne has not only been due to her estimable qualities, but has strictly and truly been exhibited and paid on account of that sense which is entertained of these things. This sense of duty, with great attention, has been a great impression on the company. The Queen was much affected by the manner in which the King spoke of his domestic happiness.

The conduct of her Majesty towards the children of her husband, when she was Duchess of Clarence, is known to have been extremely kind; and that kindness in her manner became but the more conspicuous by her position. The Queen was all the while in the closest intimacy with her Court. She witnessed with pleasure their being ennobled; and she felt delighted in beholding the King distributing all the private fortune he could command amongst them.

It may also be mentioned here, that her Majesty delighted in trusting and regarding the Princess Victoria as her daughter to the Throne; and her last act, it may be said, as Queen Consort, was in the command for a ball of unequalled magnificence, given at St. James's Palace on the 25th May, 1837, in honour of the Princess Victoria attaining her eighteenth year; that is, attaining that age when it became eligible for her to ascend the throne, upon the demise of William IV.

It is unnecessary to detail Queen Adelaide's married life further than to state that it was passed in the society and the society of the King, with whom she appeared, and was welcomed, upon almost every public occasion. One circumstance, however, cannot be passed over without notice. In November, 1834, the break-up of the Melbourne Administration, and the dissolution of Parliament by the King, marked the political excitement which, since the passing of the Reform Bill, had comparatively subsided. At this period a rude outbreak of feeling was directed against the Queen, which, to the disgrace of others competent to form an opinion on the gross injustice of the attack, was participated in by many parties in a better sphere of society. The removal of Lord Melbourne from his post of Premier was attributed to her Majesty's influence, although it was even known to the Queen until it had been publicly announced. The mis-statement was instantly contradicted; but it created a popular prejudice which it required years of generous actions to efface. Her Majesty felt the stigma so unjustly affixed to her character. On the occasion of the coronation of her Majesty, which took place on the 28th day, in 1838, after the King had returned his reply, his Royal Consort, in performing her part in the coronation, considered her answer with this very touching sentence:—"My Lords, I am particularly obliged to you for this declaration of attachment, at a period when I am most cruelly and undeservingly insulted and calumniated on many occasions."

The spring of 1837 was one of mourning to the Court. The Queen Adelaide received the distressing information of the demise of her venerated mother, whose health had been on the decay several months, dying on the 29th of April, having attained the age of 68 years.

Before the Queen had recovered from that bereavement, the health of William IV. began to fail, and those best acquainted with his Majesty's symptoms at once anticipated a fatal result. He was sensible of all that passed around to the last moment of his existence, and expressed the most heartfelt satisfaction at the constant attentions which he received from the different members of his family. Queen Adelaide set an example to her sex of patient assiduity and attention to her illustrious consort.

Her Majesty remained in close attendance on the King until the moment of his death (the 26th June, 1837). The transition was easy, and unattended with any apparent effort or struggle; his arm rested upon the Queen's shoulder, and his faithful partner's hands supported his head—a position which her Majesty had maintained for upwards of an hour previous to the fatal result.

At the funeral of the King, in St. George's Chapel, the Queen Dowager was present in one of the Royal closets.

After King William's death, the Queen Dowager received the parliamentary provision made for her in 1831, under which £100,000 per annum was settled upon her for life, with Marlborough House and Busby for her real and great consolation.

The Queen Dowager passed the following autumn and winter at St. Leonards-at-Sea. In October, 1838, having been ordered by her medical attendant to resort to a more genial climate for the winter, her Majesty embarked at Portsmouth on board the *Hastings*, for Malta. On her arrival there, she was enthusiastically welcomed by the population, and received by the authorities with all the honours due to her exalted rank and eminent private virtues. At this period, the want of church accommodation was much complained of at Malta by the British residents, amounting to about 2000; whilst the only means provided was the Government Palace Chapel, which could only accommodate 300 persons. Her Majesty, on being informed of this deplorable state of affairs, resolved to supply the want by the erection of a new church. The first stone was laid by her Majesty on the 20th of March, 1839, and the sacred edifice was completed at a cost of £15,000, exceeding by one-third the amount of her Majesty's original grant. The dimensions of this church exceed those of any of the London churches, and the length of the area being 110 feet, breadth 67 feet, and height 45 feet. The front of the edifice, facing N.E., has an Ionic portico, with a bas-relief of St. Paul casting the viper off his hand into the fire, immediately after his shipwreck (Acts xxviii. 3). The wings have a statue of St. Peter and St. Paul; and the tower and steeple are 130 feet high, terminating with a cross.

Her Majesty returned to England in May, 1839, and in the autumn made a tour in the provinces, visiting the Earl of Denbigh, at Nuneham Paddocks; the Earl Howe, at Gosport Hall; the Earl of Warwick, at Warwick Castle; Sir Robert Peel, at Drayton Manor; and the Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle; returning to London in November, and there passing the winter.

In 1840, her Majesty made the tour of the Lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland, on her way visiting the Earl and Countess of Brownlow, at Belton House, near Grantham; the Earl of Harrowood, at Harrowood House, near Leeds; and, after a progress of the Lakes, the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, at Alton Towers, from whence she proceeded to Matlock; and subsequently went to view Sudbury Hall (Lord Vernon's seat), in the same county, which her Majesty afterwards engaged as her winter residence. The Queen Dowager arrived at Sudbury in September (28th), and remained there until the 5th of February in the following year, when her Majesty came to London in November, to visit the Queen after the birth of the Princess Royal. Queen Adelaide returned in the following winter to Sudbury Hall, and, while resident there, became alarmingly ill, her life having been for some time despaired of by her medical attendants.

In the winter of 1842, her Majesty took up her abode at Canford House, the seat of Lord De Mauley, in Dorsetshire, and left for Marlborough House in the spring.

In August, 1843, her Majesty repaired to Witley Court, Lord Ward's seat, near Worcester, which princely seat she took for three years, and during her residence there enjoyed very good health. Here her Majesty performed innumerable acts of private beneficence; and the name of Adelaide will long live in the grateful remembrance of the inhabitants of Worcestershire. (An engraving of Witley Court appeared in No. 66 of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

In September, 1846, the Queen Dowager took Cassiobury, the seat of the Earl of Essex, near Watford, where her Majesty was honoured by the company, for three days, of the Queen and her Royal Highness Prince Albert. In 1847, her Majesty paid a short visit to Germany, embarking at Ramsgate, in June, for Ostend, and returning in August. (Engravings of her Majesty's visit to Cassiobury appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 234.)

In October, 1847, her Majesty, accompanied by their Serene Highnesses the Duchess Ida, Prince Edward, and the Princesses of Saxe-Weimar, embarked on board the *Howe*, 120, at Portsmouth, for Madeira, and on her way to that island put in at the Tagus, and was there received by the Queen and Prince Consort of Portugal. On the morning of April 2, in the following year, the Queen returned to Spithead, visited the Queen and Prince Albert at Osborne, the same night sleeping on board the *Howe*, and the next day returning to London. The succeeding winter was passed at Bentley Priory, near Stanmore, where Queen Adelaide had taken the Marquis of Abercorn; here her Majesty expired on Sunday last.

The character of the late Queen Dowager was pre-eminently dis-

tinguished by pious munificence and benevolent sympathy. Her Majesty is understood to have distributed from her yearly income the large amount of £20,000 to what are termed "public charities," and £10,000 in privately relieving the wants and sufferings of a numerous class of adorning the poor. Her Majesty's charities were not confined to Malta may head the list. She contributed to the funds of nearly all the societies engaged in the advancement of religion; amongst which are the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Colonial Bishopric Fund, the Sons of the Clergy, the churches in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, the Emigrants' Episcopal Fund, the churches in Australia and Cape Town; the cathedral at Adelaide, and that also at Newfoundland; the London Diocesan Board of Education, the Ragged Schools Fund, the National Society, the Christian Knowledge Society, the Church Building Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Metropolis Churches Fund; but the enumeration would be endless, and it would prove no easy task to discover any useful institution which had not the benefit of her liberal aid. It was the practice also of her Majesty to subscribe largely to all the charities in every place where she happened even for a time to reside, especially to those of the parish of St. Martin, in which her town mansion stands. The late Queen Dowager was also a munificent patroness of the fine arts. Her taste was admirable in estimating the productions of the pencil and the chisel. There were few ladies in England, even amongst those most devoted to these refined enjoyments, whose opinion upon the productions of the painter and sculptor was superior to hers. Her appointment of artists to the Royal Academy, and commissions which she so liberally gave, the same taste and discrimination were conspicuous. Such was she who has now departed from amongst us—a Princess and a model of piety—a Queen, full of gentleness—a widow, superabounding in deeds of beneficence. To all, the loss is great and great, that it is felt and lamented in every corner of the land; but to the poor, it is irreparable.

The accompanying Portrait of the lamented lady is copied by permission from a fine print engraved by Ryall, from a miniature by Sir W. C. Ross, R.A., and published by Mr. M'Lean, Haymarket. A few words referential to the illustrious family from which Queen Adelaide derived descent may not be inappropriate. The House of Saxe-Meiningen is a scion of that of Saxe-Gotha, her Majesty's great-grandfather, Bernard, Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, having been fourth son of Ernest the Pious, Duke of Saxe-Gotha, and elder brother of John-Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Saalfeld, from whom descends Prince Albert. The family of Saxe is one of the most ancient and illustrious of the Sovereign Houses of Europe. Its Princes, who frequently commanded armies and acquired great military renown, were as eminent in peace as the munificent patrons of art, science, and literature. The present chief of the race is the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, who, but for the misfortunes of his ancestor, the Elector John-Friderick, would now be invested with the sovereignty of Saxony. The sovereignty of the seniority is that of Saxe-Meiningen; the third, Saxe-Altenburg; the fourth, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; and the fifth, the Royal House of Saxony. By female descent, Queen Adelaide derived, in a direct line, from our famous English Monarch, the great and good King Alfred.

HER MAJESTY'S LAST ILLNESS.

Her Majesty's health, always delicate, became alarmingly so during her residence at Busby in the spring of the present year—incipient symptoms of dropsy manifested themselves. Great care and discretion were exercised by her Majesty's medical advisers, with the view of combating the disease and fortifying the failing strength of the Royal patient against any crisis that might occur. The sea-bathing, which her Majesty, on the last desirable day of her illness, proceeded to, was, where she remained about a fortnight without deriving any substantial benefit from the change. Her Majesty then proceeded to the Priory of St. Leonards-at-Sea, where she remained until the 26th of June, when she paid their Royal relative a visit. At the latter end of June the Queen Dowager returned to her residence at Busby Park, in a very unsatisfactory condition. It was ascertained that her health was on the decline, change of air, and sea-bathing, as it always had done previously, in the slightest degree beneficial.

On the 1st of September her Majesty and the Royal household removed from Busby Park to Bentley Priory. In the meantime, her relatives in Germany were apprised of her continued delicate health; and the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen and the Princess Mary arrived from Germany on the 4th of September, and were followed by the Prince Hereditary, their Serene Highnesses remaining on a visit to her Majesty until the 20th of September, and on the 29th of the same month their Serene Highnesses the Duchess Ida of Saxe-Weimar, and the Princesses Anne and Amelie arrived, and by their presence her Majesty received great consolation.

Her Majesty, up to the 6th of October, was, notwithstanding her increasing weakness, enabled to take frequent carriage drives, but that was the last day she was enabled to enjoy out-door exercise. Her Majesty then took to her chamber, and since that period her health rapidly declined. On the 12th of October, the Queen and Prince Albert, on their return from Osborne, visited their illustrious relative; and, in the same week, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke of Gloucester, and the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, paid visits to the Queen Dowager.

The Bishop of London attended at the Priory on the 18th of October, at her Majesty's desire, and administered the Holy Sacrament to the Royal sufferer. The Queen and Prince Albert paid their last visit to their illustrious relative on the 20th of October. On the 21st of October, the Queen Dowager's health continued to decline, and on the following Friday her condition excited the greatest alarm. On the forenoon of that day a distressing change took place, and the immediate relatives of her Majesty were hastily summoned to her chamber. Her Majesty, however, rallied, and on the next morning (Saturday) was apparently more cheerful. At seven o'clock in the evening another serious change took place, which denoted beyond any doubt the approach of death. From this time her Majesty never rallied, but passed from life in a calm slumber, after a feeble cough, which occasioned the bursting of one of the vessels of the lungs. Her Majesty expired at seven minutes before two o'clock.

Their Serene Highnesses the Duchess Ida of Saxe-Weimar, the Princesses Edward and Gustave, and the Princesses Anne and Amelie were present at the dissection of their illustrious relative. The Earl and Countess Howe, Sir David Davies, the Rev. Canon Wood, the Rev. G. F. Hudson, Sir Andrew Barnard, Colonel and Mrs. Cornwall, and Miss Hudson were also in attendance. On Saturday, the following bulletin of her Majesty's health was issued:—

"The Queen Dowager has not passed a good night, though less restless than the previous one."

"Her Majesty continues in a weak state."

Dr. Bright arrived at the Priory on the Saturday night, and remained in attendance until her Majesty's decease.

Her Majesty's physicians issued the following bulletin:—

"Her Majesty the Queen Dowager expired at seven minutes before two o'clock on Sunday morning, the 2d of December, without any apparent suffering, and retaining her composure of mind to the last."

"DAVID DAVIES, M.D."

"RICHARD BRIGHT, M.D."

At a later hour, a *London Gazette Extraordinary* was published, containing the melancholy announcement in the following terms:—

"This morning, at seven minutes before two o'clock, her Majesty the Queen Dowager departed this life, at Stanmore Priory, to the great grief of her Majesty and of all the Royal Family, after a painful and protracted illness, which she bore with exemplary patience. The loss of this most excellent Princess will be deeply mourned by all classes of her Majesty's subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection."

Certain Bedford, Gentlemen—Usurper to her late Majesty, left the Priory at an early hour on Sunday morning for town. Expresses were forwarded to her Majesty the Queen and her Royal Highness Prince Albert; to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, at Frogmore House; and to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, at Kew.

Intelligence of the mournful event was also communicated, on Sunday forenoon, to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, her Majesty's principal Secretary for the Home Department, and to the Lord Mayor.

The great bell of St. Paul's, as is customary on the demise of a member of the Royal family, tolled soon after the news was received in the City.

A bell was rung at the village of Stanmore from the mournful death of her Majesty, whose liberal charities to the poor of that district, as well as her naturally unostentatious deportment, had rendered her deeply beloved by all classes of the inhabitants. The bell of the parish church of Stanmore tolled heavily during the afternoon.

MEMOIR OF HER LATE MAJESTY THE
QUEEN DOWAGER.



moir we now present to our readers.

AMELIA ADELAIDE LOUISA THERESA CAROLINA, the subject of the following memoir, was born on the 13th of August, 1792. She was the eldest daughter of George, the late reigning Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, who was married to a daughter of the House of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. — This petty principality is almost the smallest state in Europe, and is not half the size of an English county. It has a metropolis of some five or six hundred houses. In the year 1803 her father died, the Princess Adelaide being then only eleven years of age, while her brother and sister were both younger still. To the guardianship of their mother these youthful descendants of the House of Saxe-Meiningen were confided. The early years of the Princess Adelaide were

It is with feelings of deep regret that we devote a portion of our present number to chronicle so mournful an event as the death of one of the royal family. Public sympathy and anxiety, which has been suspended between hope and fear for several weeks past, owing to the severe indisposition of Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, has now received a severe shock by the lamented death of this highly-esteemed lady, whose me-

passed alternately at the ducal palace, in the capital city of Meiningen, and at the Castle of Altenstein, country residence, where the reigning family were accustomed to spend the summer months. In the year 18 the Duke of Clarence contemplated a matrimonial alliance and at the especial instance of Queen Charlotte he solicited the hand of the Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. The preliminaries of their union having been settled in London, and at Meiningen, the young German princess, the 26th year of her age, quitted her fatherland to espouse an elderly gentleman of 53. Her Serene Highness, accompanied by her mother, and attended by a numerous suite arrived in London on the 4th of July, 1818. On the 9th of the same month the princess was presented to Queen Charlotte, and on the 18th her marriage took place at Kew. However happy his union may have been, the hopes which it was formed were, in one respect, disappointed: one child only, the Princess Elizabeth, having been born alive, who was committed to the grave in a few months after her birth. With the exception of two visits to Germany, one in the year 1822, and the other in the year 182 it cannot be said that the life of the Duchess of Clarence

was much varied; but this apparent absence of exciting pursuits resulted not from incapacity of enjoyment, but partly from ill health, and somewhat also, from prudent considerations, for she loved hospitality, engaged with ardour in many feminine employments, of which ornamental needlework was one—in the middle age her patronage of tapestry would have rivalled Queen Maud's—her reading, if not profound, was, at all events, extensive; while her judgment in music and even in pictures was held in high esteem; but beyond and above these mental qualities shone forth the genuine practical benevolence which impelled her to delight in training the young and comforting the aged. Since her marriage twelve years had elapsed, and Her Royal Highness was still Duchess of



PORTRAIT OF HER LATE MAJESTY, THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

Clarence; on the 26th of June, 1830, she became Queen of England. Her position was changed, yet the rectitude and gentleness of her character underwent no alteration. The amount of her duties and the sphere of her influence were vastly enlarged; a great income was placed at her disposal. As regarded the management of her property, the law gave to her, as to every Queen Consort, the rights and freedom of a single woman, with the services of an Attorney and Solicitor-General, with the usual crowded retinue of gentlemen ushers, ladies of the bedchamber, pages, treasurers, physicians, and chaplains. From this period may be dated the commencement of the toil, the care, and the disappointments from which royalty never wholly escapes. She, like her predecessors, soon practically understood how "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;" but Her Majesty and King William were not formally crowned for more than a year after their accession. That ceremony took place on the 8th of September, 1831; it was, however, much shorn of its ancient splendour; for there was no banquet in Westminster Hall, nor any procession from the Hall to Westminster Abbey; but a lengthened cavalcade was formed through the streets, the king and queen proceeding in full state from St. James's Palace to the Abbey. On the 20th of June, 1837, Queen Adelaide became a widow. During the last seven or eight years her health—never good—has been rapidly declining; and even before the death of the king she found frequent change of residence necessary to the preservation of life. Her majesty has visited not only many parts of England and the continent, but also the islands of Madeira and Malta; at the latter place the church of Valetta was founded and endowed by her pious munificence. She likewise contributed to almost every public charity, and to the funds of nearly all the societies engaged in the advancement of religion. To enumerate them would be endless; and it would prove no easy task to discover any useful institution which had not the benefit of her liberal aid. It was the practice also of her majesty to subscribe largely to all the charities in every place where she happened even for a time to reside, especially to those of the parish of St. Martin, in which her town mansion stands—a dwelling, the portals of which opened once in every London season to receive, but not long to retain, their Royal owner, for the state of her health forbade her spending much time in London. The latter part of her majesty's life was one long disease, and it is no idle repetition of a threadbare formula to say that she bore her painful maladies "with Christian fortitude." Few had more need of that virtue, for few have been so severely tried. If the sympathy and good wishes of this nation could have abridged her sufferings and extended her life, the Queen Dowager, undisturbed by care or pain, would have reached the utmost limit of human existence, but now at the age of fifty-seven, she has quitted this world, her death occasioning universal regret. During the last two or three months, her majesty was so grievously indisposed as hardly ever to have quitted her private apartments. Shortly before she expired all suffering seemed to cease, and her majesty retained perfect composure of mind to the last. The mournful event took place on Sunday morning the 2nd instant, at seven minutes before two o'clock, at Stanmore Priory, Bushey; after a painful and protracted illness, which she bore with exemplary patience. The loss of this most excellent princess will be deeply mourned by all classes of her majesty's subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection.—*Times*.